

MONROE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: James Smith
NEWS RELEASE: #4
DATE: April 4, 2003
TIME: 12:15 p.m.

MONROE COUNTY & AMERICAN RED CROSS ANNOUNCE WARMING CENTER SITES FOR RESIDENTS WITHOUT HEAT AND/OR POWER

County Executive Jack Doyle & the American Red Cross have announced the sites of available “warming centers” for County residents without heat and/or power. It was stressed that the centers are for temporary, short-term use and that residents should find family or friends (where possible) with heat and shelter until power is restored.

The warming centers are located at the following sites and will open at 1:00 p.m.:

(Warming centers will not provide meals, sleeping facilities or medical care)

**Greece Arcadia High School – 120 Island Cottage Road, Greece
Webster Spry Middle School – 119 South Avenue, Webster
Penfield Community Center – 1985 Baird Road, Penfield
Gates Community Center – 1605 Buffalo Road, Gates
Eastridge High School – 2350 East Ridge Road, Irondequoit
East High School – Ohio St. Loading Dock Entrance, Rochester**

If the need for overnight sheltering with sleeping accommodations is warranted arrangements will be made and announced in the future.

In addition, residents are asked to check in on elderly or mobility-impaired neighbors to ensure that they are safe and to offer shelter to those without heat and/or power. Individuals with special home health care needs should contact their “home health care provider.” Those people with medical issues that need immediate assistance should call 911.

Also, RG&E has announced that 50,000 households are without power, and that they are working as fast as possible to bring affected areas back online.

~~-more-~~

2003 Ice Storm – Release #4
Page 2

Numerous events throughout our community have been cancelled and residents should call ahead before traveling and stay tuned to local media outlets for news of cancellations.

Residents continue to be advised to exercise extreme caution in the wake of a severe ice storm that hit Monroe County last night and continues to present difficult weather conditions through this evening.

Monroe County previously announced:

Residents should be especially careful in using secondary heat sources, such as candles, fireplaces and wood stoves. Use of such items should be closely monitored in order to prevent house fires or carbon monoxide poisoning.

In addition, residents without power should not call 911 to report the outage. Instead, residents should contact RG&E Customer Service at 546-1100. However, downed power lines and other dangerous situations should be reported to 911.

Residents should avoid unnecessary travel. However, residents who decide to travel should exercise extreme caution. ***In addition, all intersections where traffic signals are without power should be treated as four-way stops.***

The Greater Rochester International Airport is still open. However, travelers should contact their air carrier to ensure that their flight is still on schedule.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened at 4:30 AM today as a precaution.

Freezing rain and ice have caused downed power lines and trees, power outages and extremely slippery roads and highways. Numerous roads are blocked with fallen tree limbs and downed power lines. County officials urge residents to travel with caution in affected areas and to keep children and pets away from damaged and down power lines. Area residents should also use caution around ice laden trees and power lines, due to falling limbs or the potential for downed wires.

~~-more-~~

2003 Ice Storm – Release #4
Page 3

County Police, Fire, and EMS agencies as well as the Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, 9-1-1, and Communications are staffing the EOC to conduct storm assessments and determine any further necessary actions. RG&E, Frontier Telephone, the Red Cross and local business representatives are also on hand as part of this effort.

Residents are reminded that calls to 9-1-1 should be limited to those situations requiring police, fire or emergency medical services only. Additional information on activities at the EOC and possible further community action will be made available as warranted.

#